AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components, comprising:

a device driver configured to provide information and perform actions associated with a hardware device; and

a driver library containing software routines for making the information provided by and the actions performed by the device driver accessible to a device driver monitor and control management system that monitors information provided by and actions performed by the device driver and that issues messages to the device driver, the software routines of the library being accessible by the device driver to handle messages issued to the device driver by the device driver monitor and control management system.

2. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the device driver is further configured with a unique software routine particular to the device driver and related to the hardware device.

3. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 2, wherein the device driver is further configured to execute the unique software routine in response to a call from the driver library.

4. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 3, wherein the driver library is further configured to call the unique software routine and cause the unique software routine to execute.

5. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 3, wherein the unique software routine is configured to retrieve data and perform actions associated with the hardware device.

6. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 3, wherein the unique software routine is configured to set a block of data stored on the hardware device.

7. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 3, wherein the unique software routine is configured to execute a method associated with the information associated with the hardware device, the method being operative to pass additional information between the device driver and the device driver monitor and control management system or perform a certain action.

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8.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 7, wherein the driver library contains a software routine to format the additional information in a format consistent with the device driver monitor and control management system.

9.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the driver library is a dynamically accessible software library.

10.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, wherein the driver library is further configured to receive, from the device driver, an identifier for a particular Input/Output Request Packet ("IRP"), and to execute a particular software routine related to handling the IRP.

11.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the driver library is further configured to receive, from the device driver, an identifier for a particular IRP, to execute a particular software routine related to handling the IRP, and to return to the device driver monitor and control management system any information retrieved from the hardware device as a result of handling the IRP.

12.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the driver library is a static library associated with the device driver.

13.   (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for providing management information to a device driver monitor and control management system that monitors information provided by and actions performed by the device driver and that issues messages to the device driver, which, when executed, comprise:

     receiving an input/output request packet ("IRP") message from the device driver monitor and control management system, the IRP message including instructions regarding data maintained by an instrumented hardware device;

     passing the IRP to a driver library containing software routines for handling the instructions of the IRP message; and

     handling the IRP message by the driver library.

14.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein passing the IRP to the driver library comprises determining whether the IRP is intended for a particular device driver.

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15.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, further comprising if the IRP is not intended for the particular device driver, passing the IRP to a next device driver in a driver stack.

16.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein handling the IRP message by the driver library comprises calling back to a device driver associated with the instrumented hardware device to request data from or perform an action by the device driver.

17.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein handling the IRP message by the driver library comprises calling back to a device driver associated with the instrumented hardware device to request that data be set at the instrumented hardware device.

18.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein handling the IRP message by the driver library comprises calling back to a device driver associated with the instrumented hardware device to cause a unique software routine within the device driver to be executed, the unique software routine being configured to perform a function related to the instrumented hardware device.

19.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the driver library is further configured to format data received from the device driver in a format consistent with the device driver monitor and control management system.

20.   (Currently amended) A computing apparatus comprising a hardware device, a processor and a memory containing:

a device driver configured to provide information and perform actions associated with a hardware device;

a device driver monitor and control management system that monitors information provided by and actions performed by the device driver and that issues messages to the device driver; and

a driver library containing software routines for making the information provided by and the actions performed by the device driver accessible to the driver monitor and control management system, the software routines library being accessible by the device driver to handle messages issued to the device driver by the device driver monitor and control management system.

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21.　(Currently amended) A computing apparatus comprising a hardware device, a processor and a memory, said memory storing a device driver monitor and control management system that monitors information provided by and actions performed by the device driver and that issues messages to the device driver, said computing apparatus operative to provide management information to the device driver monitor and control management system, by:

receiving an input/output request packet ("IRP") message from the device driver monitor and control management system, the IRP message including instructions regarding data maintained by an instrumented hardware device;

passing the IRP to a driver library containing software routines for handling the instructions of the IRP message; and

handling the IRP message by the driver library.

22.　(Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of providing management information to a device driver monitor and control management system that monitors information provided by and actions performed by the device driver and that issues messages to the device driver, comprising:

configuring a device driver to provide information and perform actions associated with a hardware device; and

making the information provided by and the actions performed by the device driver accessible to a device driver monitor and control management system, the library being accessible by the device driver to handle messages issued to the device driver by the device driver monitor and control management system.

23.　(Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of providing management information to a device driver monitor and control management system that monitors information provided by and actions performed by the device driver and that issues messages to the device driver, comprising:

receiving an input/output request packet ("IRP") message from the device driver monitor and control management system, the IRP message including instructions regarding data maintained by an instrumented hardware device;

passing the IRP to a driver library containing software routines for handling the instructions of the IRP message; and

handling the IRP message by the driver library.

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